

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, and 10-17 are all the claims pending in the application.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim for foreign priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority documents.

The Examiner has made objections to the disclosure for informalities. Applicant submits changes to the specification as shown in the Appendix below to obviate the objections. Applicant submits that the changes are necessary due to typographical error and do not add new matter.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Ito et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,224,036) ("Ito"). Applicant submits the following arguments to traverse the prior art rejections.

Applicant's invention relates to an anomalous shadow detection system. In one embodiment, the invention relates to an anomalous shadow detection system which has image output means capable of outputting an improved set of information. The improved set of information includes at least one of parameters displayed along with an image of the suspected anomalous shadow to assist in analysis of the image.

Ito relates to an apparatus for determining the probability that the shadow of a tumor designated on a radiation image of an object is the shadow of a malignant tumor on the basis of an image signal representing the radiation image.

Applicant submits amended claim 1 incorporating the subject matter of claim 9 and canceling claim 9.

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Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable because Ito fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the claims. For example, Ito fails to teach or suggest an anomalous shadow detection system comprising:

the image output means further outputs value(s) of one or more standard parameters concerning the suspected anomalous shadow together with the information including at least the information identifying the suspected anomalous shadow, wherein each of said one or more standard parameters is a parameter used for distinguishing the suspected anomalous shadow from a normal shadow

in combination with other elements of the claim (emphasis added). Although, Ito teaches the possibility of displaying the characteristic value C_2 in column 13, lines 13-22, Ito explicitly teaches displaying the characteristic value C_2 along with the visible X-ray image, without making any judgment, or identification, as to whether the tumor is benign or malignant. Col. 13, lines 20-22. To the contrary, claim 1 recites displaying one or more standard parameters with information including at least the information identifying the suspected anomalous shadow, in combination with other elements of the claim. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference.

Claims 2-8, 10-14, and 17 (as dependent from claims 1-8, 10-14), which depend from claim 1, are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for amended claim 1.

Alternatively, or in addition, claims 3, 7, and 13 are patentable because Ito fails to teach or suggest the image output means further outputting value(s) of one or more standard parameters and the certainty of detection of the suspected anomalous shadow, in the manner claimed.

Assuming arguendo, that the Examiner is correct in that Ito teaches or suggests the certainty of detection by disclosing the characteristic value C_2 (last paragraph, page 3 of Office Action), the Examiner cannot assert that the one or more standard parameters is also taught or suggested by

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the same characteristic value C_2 (second full paragraph, page 3 of Office Action). Thus, we submit that the Examiner has not shown that each and every element of claims 3, 7, and 13 is taught or suggested by Ito.

Similar to the reasons submitted for claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 15 is patentable because Ito fails to teach the image output means further outputs certainty of detection of the suspected anomalous shadow together with the information including the information identifying the suspected anomalous shadow, in combination with other features of the claim. As discussed above, Ito merely teaches displaying the characteristic value C_2 along with the visible X-ray image without any information identifying the suspected anomalous shadow in column 13, lines 13-22.

Claims 16 and 17, as dependent from claims 15 and 16, which depend from claim 15, are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for claim 15.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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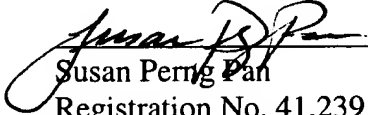
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